

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Altenburg Airfield

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 18 January 1955

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED  
Information

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1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Altenburg airfield between 22 November and 16 December 1954: 25X1
  - 22 to 29 November. No air activity was observed.
  - 30 November. Between 0930 and 1600, there was air activity by MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s. Many individual take-offs to the southwest were made at intervals of 4 to 5 minutes. The aircraft remained aloft for about 4 or 5 minutes. Up to 2 planes were simultaneously in the air.
  - 1 December. No air activity was conducted during daytime. Night flying was practiced from 1648 to 2250 by MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s. The aircraft took off individually at irregular intervals of 4 to 6 minutes and remained aloft for 4 to 5 minutes. Only one aircraft was aloft at a time. Searchlights or the rotary searchlight were not in operation during air activity. The boundary and obstacle lights were switched on.
  - 14 December. Between 1000 and 1300, 43 individual take-offs were made by MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s at intervals of about 3 minutes. The aircraft landed after an average flight time of 4 to 5 minutes. The flight altitude was about 600 meters. Mostly 2 aircraft were simultaneously aloft.
  - 16 December. At about 1212, a MiG-15 or U-MiG-15 took off and practiced flying over Altenburg at an altitude of about 300 meters. The landing of the plane was not observed nor was additional air activity seen.

Since early December, the runway was strewn with sand before air activity started.<sup>1</sup>
2. Between 1000 and 1200 on 24 November, 80 to 100 soldiers practiced firing with heavy and light machine guns and carbines. The soldiers were 17 to 18-year old recruits who did not wear any insignia.<sup>2</sup>
3. Trucks carrying 17 to 18 year old recruits with black-bordered blue epaulets and without insignia were repeatedly seen moving to the market place in Altenburg during the morning and afternoon and returning to the field before nightfall. The recruits had close cropped hair and new dress uniforms. They were observed in Altenburg for the first time in late November 1954. At about 2000 on 30 November, a cultural performance was held in the people's house in Altenburg in conclusion of the "month of the German-Soviet friendship". The performance was principally organized by personnel of the airfield. The entertainers included the airfield band with 16 men conducted by a sergeant and a dancing and singing team consisting of 48 17 to 18 year old recruits and 12 Russian women. The entertainment was attended by 25 to 30 officers ranking from sub-lieutenant to lieutenant colonel, 20 to 25 soldiers including NCOs and about 200 recruits wearing black-bordered blue epaulets without insignia. From the speeches and performances it was inferred that most of the recruits were Georgians. From the beginning of December,

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the recruits wore air force insignia.<sup>2</sup>

4. On 30 November and 10 December, 8 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were parked at the northeastern end of the runway at Altenburg airfield. Twenty swept-back jet aircraft were seen in the southeastern corner of the landing field. There was air activity including individual take-offs.<sup>1</sup>

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5. No changes were observed on the radio and radar installations at the field.

6. The AA gun emplacement was unchanged.

1. Comment: It is believed that Altenburg airfield is still occupied by two fighter regiments. A total of 28 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were counted on the landing field. Air activity was conducted only on individual days.

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2. Comment: The training of recruits was also observed at other airfields. The personnel were being exchanged in October and November.

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